## Dec 1931

# StampCollectiong 



## MERIT BADGE SERIES

BOY SCOUTS of AMERICA
TWO PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

## Dec 1931

# STAMP COLLECTING 

By Prescott Holden Thorp

## The Value of Stamp Collecting

Stamp Collecting goes infinitely farther than the mere gathering of pretty bits of paper. If there were no more to the hobby than this, we would not be justified in giving it a second thought. In common with all other hobbies, Stamp Collecting is an avocation. Such an avocation, or any hobby for that matter, must at all times be interesting if it is to be useful. It must appeal to us as something we like to do and should contribute something toward making our lives more enjoyable. This is the major object of any hobby. If it fails in this respect it is not worthy of our attention.

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1. Own and exhibit a collection of 500 or more wellconditioned stamps personally collected by the Scout, including at least 50 different countries.
2. Exhibit 10 of the following types of stamp: air mail, envelope, surcharged, imperforate, perforate, postage due, precancelled, flat plate, rotary press, telegraph, revenue, and registration.
3. Exhibit and explain the following classes of stamp, and name one country of issue: postage, commemorative, special delivery, parcel post, private proprietary, semi-postal, and war tax.
4. Exhibit and explain cancellations and their relation to the value of a stamp, including each of the following:
(a) Pen.
(b) Office (town).
(c) Killer
(d) Colored.
(e) "Tied to cover."
5. Explain the following terms used by stamp collectors:
(a) Wove, laid, granite, and silk paper.
(d) Water marks
(c) Engraved, typographed, lithographed.
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6. Exhibit the number indicated of each of the following issues of the United States: 10 different commemorative, 10 present issue, 4 present envelope, 1 memorial, 1 flat plate, 1 rotary press, and 4 different air mail stamps.
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2M-December, 1931

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# StampCoillecting 



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BOY SCOUTS of AMERICA
TWO PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

## $\operatorname{Jan} 1935$

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MERIT BADGE SERIES BOY SCOUTS of AMERICA TWO PARK AVENUE NEW YORK, N. Y.

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TWO PARK AVENUE NEW YORK. N. Y.

STAMP
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PREPARED BY
PRESCOTT HOLDEN THORP

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1. Own and exhibit either of the following assortments personally collected by himself.
(a) 500 or more well-conditioned stamps including at least 50 different countries OR
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2. Exhibit one stamp from at least six of the following groups: surcharged, imperforate, perforate, precancelled, flat plate, rotary press, commemorative, envelope, semi-postal, occupation, provisional.
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# stampCollecting 



## Merit Badge Series

BOY SCOUTS of AMERICA Two Park Avenue, New York, N. Y.

STAMP
COLLECTING

PREPARED BY
PRESCOTT HOLDEN THORP

B O Y S C O U T S O F A M E R I C A
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## Merit Badge Series

BOY SCOUTS of AMERICA Two Park Avenue, New York, N. Y.

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## Badges of Rank and Achievement



SENIOR PAT'L.LEADER
BUOLER


SCRIBE


CABIN BOY


STANDARD TROOP STAR


# STAMP collecting 

<br>BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA<br>TWO PARK AVENUE NEW YORK N.Y.

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## $03-1944$

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7. Demonstrate ability to "catalogue" accurately five stamps which are to be furnished by the Counselor.
8. Explain in full how the "condition" of a stamp affects its value.


## Late 1944

# STAMP collecting 



## MERIT BADGE SERIES

## Late 1944

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COLLECTING

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# STAMP COLLECTING 



## MERIT BADGE SERIES

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## Jan 194.5

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STAMP
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# STAMP COLLECTING 



MERIT BADGE SERIES
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

# STAMP <br> COLLECTING 

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## STAMP COLLECTING



# MERIT BADGE SERIES 

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## STAMP

## collecting



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## REQUIREMENTS

## STAMP COLLECTING MERIT BADGE REQUIREMENTS

1. Mount and exhibit in an album:(a) a collection of 750 or more different stamps from at least 30 different countries, or (b) a collection of 150 or more different stamps from a single country or group of closely related countries, or (c) a collection of 75 or more different stamps on some special subject, or (d) a collection of 200 or more special item stamps.
2. Demonstrate the use of a stamp catalogue to find at least 5 items selected by the counselor.
3. Show stamps to support brief definitions of the following terms: perforation, imperforate, roulette, cancellation, cover, mint stamp, coil stamp, overprint, surcharge, engraving, and some other printing process other than engraving.
4. Exhibit one stamp in each of the following classifications and explain purpose of each: regular postage, commemorative, semi-postal, air mail, postage due, envelope, special delivery, precancel, and revenue.
5. Explain the meaning of good condition of a stamp and show one stamp that is well centered, fully perforated, clearly cancelled, clean, and undamaged by tears or thin spots.
6. Demonstrate a knowledge of the following stamp collectors tools (a) perforation gage, (b) magnifying glass, (c) watermark detector, and stamp tongs.

## STAMP

## COLLECTING



# MERIT BADGE SERIES 

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AMERICA

# STAMP COLLECTING 

PREPARED BY

JAMES W. SHAVER

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(The catalog numbers used in this pamphlet are all from SCOTT'S STANDARD POSTAGE STAMP CATALOGUE, unless specifically stated otherwise in the text.)
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I. Mount and exhibit in a commercial album or an album of your own making: a. a collection of 750 or more different stamps from at least 30 countries (6);

OR
b. A collection of 150 or more different stamps from a single country or a group of closely related countries (7);

OR
c. A collection of 75 or more different stamps on some special subject such as birds, trees, great men, music, aviation, etc. (Stamps may be from any number of countries) (9);

OR
d. A collection of 200 or more special items such as pre-cancelled stamps, postage meters, revenue stamps, covers, postal stationery, etc. (10)
2. Demonstrate the use of the "Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue", or a catalogue particularly related to your collection in requirement $I$, to find at least five items selected by the Counselor. (37)
3. Show stamps to support brief definitions of the following terms:
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i. surcharge (33)
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## Aug 1951

## STAMP collecting



# MERIT BADGE SERIES 

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# MERIT BADGE SERIES 

# STAMP 

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## STAMP

## COLLECTING

PREPARED BY<br>JAMES W. SHAVER

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1958 PRINTING
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B ○ Y S C O U T S O F

NEW BRUNSWICK
No. 3359
Printed in U S.A.

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## OR

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c. A collection of 75 or more different stamps on some special subject such as birds, trees, great men, music, aviation, etc. I Stamps may be from any number of countries) (9);

OR
d. A collection of 200 or more special items such as pre-cancelled stamps, postage meters, revenue stamps, covers, postal stationery, etc. (10)
2. Demonstrate the use of the "Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue", or a catalogue particularly related to your collection in requirement 1 , to find at least five items selected by the Counselor. (37)
3. Show stamps to support brief definitions of the following terms:
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1959 PRINTING

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B O Y S C O U T S OF A M ER I C A

NEW BRUNSWICK
No. 3359
Printed in U.S.A.

NEW JERSEY

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1960 PRINTING

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$B \bigcirc Y$ $S C O U T S$ O F A M ER I C A NEW BRUNSWICK NEW JERSEY

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## STAMP

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1961 PRINTING

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1963 PRINTING

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B O Y S CO U T S O F
NEW JERSEY

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$B \quad \mathrm{Y}$
$\mathrm{S} \subset \mathrm{O}$ U T S
O F
A M
E R I
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c. Use the watermark detector to show how a watermark may aid in identifying a stamp. (24)
d. Use stamp tongs and stamp hinges correctly in mounting a stamp in an album. (21)

Poole, Bertram, W. H., The Lure of the Postage Stamps.

Shawen, Lena, A President's Hobby.

United States Post Office Department, Postage Stamps of the United States, 1847-1950.

Williams, L. N. and M., Stamps of Fame.

## Books for Special Interest Fields

Barrett, Otis Warren, The Animals on Postage Stamps.

Bird Stamps of All Countries.
Booth, Phebe, Subject Matter of Philately.

Kimble, Ralph A., Commemorative Postage Stamps of the United States.

Philatelic Who's Who Series, Who's Who on the Postage Stamps.
"Spying Eye," Handbook on Philatelic Forgeries.

Steiger, William C., and Pamperien, William, A Type Chart of United States Postage Meters.

Thorsen, Harry D., Jr., Boy Scout Stamps of the World
United States Post Office Department, First Class Post Offices with Stations and Branches. Washington: Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, 35 cents, annually.

United States Post Office Department, Post Offices by Counties. Washington: Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, 40 cents, annually.

## Boys'Life

## Be Prepared for <br> Good Scouting <br> and <br> Good Reading



To help you get ahead in Scouting, and to enjoy good stories, look to the pages of Boys' Life.

Month after month, you can count on Boy's Life for exciting articles on your merit badge interests:
on camping and cooking;
on hiking and exploration;
on swimming and boating;
on hobbies and Scoutcraft;
and dozens of other activities. You'll get more out of Scouting by reading Boys' Life. What's more, if you belong to the Boy Scouts of America, you can get it at half price through your unit, only $\$ 1.50$ for twelve issues.



## STAMP

 COLLECTINGBOY SCOUTS<br>of<br>AMERICA

## STAMP

## COLLECTING

PREPARED BY<br>JAMES W. SHAVER

(The catalogue numbers used in this pamphlet are all from SCOTT'S STANDARD POSTAGE STAMP CATALOGUE, unless specifically stated in the text.)

1965 PRINTING

Copyright 1951 by
B O Y S CO U T S O F
NEW JERSEY

## REQUIREMENTS

(Figures in parentheses refer to pages in this booklet.)
To obtain a merit badge for STAMP COLLECTING, do the following:
I. Mount and exhibit in a commercial album or an album of your own making: a. a collection of 750 or more different stamps from at least 30 countries (6);

## OR

b. A collection of 150 or more different stamps from a single country or a group of closely related countries (7);

OR
c. A collection of 75 or more different stamps on some special subject such as birds, trees, great men, music, aviation, etc., (stamps may be from any number of countries) (9);

OR
d. A collection of 200 or more special items such as precanceled stamps, postage meters, revenue stamps, covers, postal stationery, etc. (10)
2. Demonstrate the use of the "Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue," or a catalogue particularly related to your collection in Requirement I, to find at least five items selected by the counselor. (37)
3. Show stamps to support brief definitions of the following terms:
a. perforation (26)
b. imperforate (26)
c. roulette (27)
d. cancellation (30)
e. cover. (28)
f. mint stamp (28)
g. coil stamp (32)
h. overprint (33)
i. surcharge (33)
j. engraving (34)
k. printing process other than engraving (34)
4. Exhibit one stamp in each of the following classifications and explain the purpose of each: regular postage (40), commemorative (40), semipostal (41), air mail (42), postage due (43), envelope (44), special delivery (44), precancel (45), and revenue (46).
5. Explain the meaning of good condition of a stamp and show one stamp that is well centered, fully perforated, clearly cancelled, clean, and undamage by tears or thin spots. (46-47)
6. Demonstrate a knowledge of the following stamp collector's tools:
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## MORE HELP IN BOOKS

(Some of the books listed below may be out of print and no longer available from the publishers. However, your public library may have copies of some of them.)

## Books for Beginners and Reference Books

Boggs, Winthrop S., Foundations of Philately.
Brookman, Lester G., 19th Century Postage Stamps of the United States.

Johl, Max G., United States Commemorative Stamps of the Twentieth Century.

Thorp, Prescott H., Guide to Stamp Collecting.
Thorsen, Harry D., Jr., and McKinney, W. Arthur, Scouts on Stamps of the World.

United States Post Office Department, Postage Stamps of the United States 1847-1964.

## Catalogs

Minkus New American Stamp Catalog.
Minkus New Worldwide Stamp Catalog.
Scott's Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue.
Scott's U. S. Specialized Catalogue.
United States Specialized Catalogue of First Day Covers.

United States Stamps, United States Possessions, British North America.

United States-United Nations First Day Cover Catalog.

## Philatelic Societies

American First Day Cover Society, P. O. Box 23, Cranford, New Jersey 07016

American Philatelic Society, P. O. Box 800, State College, Pennsylvania 16801

American Topical Association, 3306 N. 50th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53216

Scouts on Stamps Society International, 18 Ryan Road, Highland Park, New Jersey 08904

Society of Philatelic Americans, Box 2775, Hamilton Station, Pompano Beach, Florida 33062

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## 1966 Hevision

Boy Scouts of America<br>New Brunswick, New Jersey

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## Copyright 1966

Boy Scouts of America
New Brunswick, N. J. 20 M 766
No. 3359 Printed in U.S.A.
Library of Congress
Catalog Card Number: 19-600
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Foundations of Philately, Boggs, Winthrop S.

Guide Book to Stamp Collecting, Williams, L. N. and M.

19th Century Postage Stamps of the United States, Brookman, Lester G.

100 Years of Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C.

Postage Stamps of the United States, Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C.

Scouts on Stamps of the World, Thorsen, H. D. and McKinney, W. A.

United States Commemorative Stamps of the Twentieth Century, John, Max G.

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Minkus New American Stamp Catalog and Minkus New World Wide Stamp Catalog, Minkus Publications, Inc., New York, N. Y. 10001
The Minkus publishing house also publishes a number of catalogs by sections and individual countries of the world.

Minkus Stamp Journal, quarterly publication which carries in-
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Scotts Standard Postage Stamp Catalog and Scotts U. S. Specialized Catalog, Scott Publications, New York, N. Y. 10001
Scott's Monthly Stamp Journal Monthly magazine to bring Scott's album up to date each month, Portland Place, Boulder, Colo. 80301

United States First Day Covers, The Washington Press, Maplewood, N. J. 07040

First Day Cover Catalog, Fleetwood Cover Service, Pleasantville, N. Y. 10570

## Philatelic Societies

American First Day Cover Society, P. O. Box 23, Cranford, N. J. 07061.

American Philatelic Society, P. O. Box 800, State College, Pa. 16801

American Topical Association, 3306 North 50th Street, Milwaukee, Wis. 53216
Junior Philatelic Society of America, Robert J. Osterhoff, executive secretary, 1478 Jackson Street, Dubuque, Iowa 52001

Society of Philatelic Americans, Stewart T. Bailey, executive secretary, P. O. Box 266, Cincinnati, Ohio 45201

Scouts on Stamps Society International, May L. Rogers, secretary, 37 Spindle Road, Hicksville, N. Y. 11801

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Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News, 20 Temple Street, Portland, Me. This is one of the older publications and has many fine contributors.
Philately, H-R Productions, Inc., 17 East 45th Street, New York, N. Y. 10017.

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New Brunswick, N. J. 17M767
No. 3359 Printed in U.S.A.
Library of Congress
Catalog Card Number: 19-600
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First Day Cover Catalog, Fleetwood Cover Service, Pleasantville, N. Y. 10570

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## STAMP

 COLLECTING
# BOY SCOUTS <br> of <br> AMERICA 

## Stamp Lollecting

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## Boy Scouts of America

New Brunswick, New Jersey

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New Brunswick, N. J. 33 M968
No. 3359 Printed in U.S.A.
Library of Congress
Catalog Card Number: 19-600
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## 1971 PRINTING

Copyright 1966
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North Brunswick, N. J. 15M171
No. 3359 Printed in U.S.A.
Library of Congress
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## Philatelic Societies

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## YOU AND YOUR COUNSELOR



Your merit badge counselor is as impertans to you as a good coach is to an athlete. He is a real "pro" in his field; be sure to soak up all the knowledge and experience he can offer. This may be your only chance to learn from an expert in this subject. Make it count.


## Stamp Lollecting


#### Abstract

The Boy Scouts of America gratefully acknowledges the services of James $W$. Shaver and W. Arthur McKinney, former Boys' Life stamp collecting editor, who prepared this revision of the Stamp Collecting merit badge pamphlet. Mr. Shaver wrote the original manuscript, and Mr. McKinney supplied the stamp photos and layouts.


## Boy Scouts of America

North Brunswick, New Jersey

## Requirements

1. Demonstrate the use of the Standard Postage Stamp Catalog, or a catalog particularly related to your collection in requirement 6 , to find at least five items selected by the counselor.
2. Explain the meaning of good condition of a stamp and show one stamp that is well centered, fully perforated, clearly canceled, clean, and undamaged by tears or thin spots.
3. Demonstrate a knowledge of the following stamp collectors' tools:
(a) Use a perforation gauge to determine, on a stamp supplied by the counselor, the perforation measurement in accordance with the accepted standard.
(b) Use a magnifying glass for careful examination of design and condition.
(c) Use the watermark detector to show how a watermark may aid in identifying a stamp.
(d) Use stamp tongs and stamp hinges correctly in mounting a stamp in an album.
4. Show stamps to support brief

## 1972 PRINTING

Copyright 1966
Boy Scouts of America
North Brunswick, N. J. 15 M 272
Library of Congress
Catalog Card Number: 19-600
ISBN 0-8395-3359-4
No. 3359 Printed in U.S.A.
definitions of the following terms: perforation, imperforate, roulette, cancellation, cover, mint stamp, coil stamp, overprint, surcharge, engraving, and printing process other than engraving.
5. Exhibit one stamp in each of the following classifications and explain the purpose of each: regular postage, commemorative, semipostal, airmail, postage due, envelope, special delivery, precancel, and revenue.
6. Mount and exhibit in a commercial album or an album of your own making: (a) a collection of 750 or more different stamps from at least 30 countries; or (b) a collection of 150 or more different stamps from a single country or a group of closely related countries; or (c) a collection of 75 or more different stamps on some special subject such as birds, trees, great men, music, aviation, etc. (stamps may be from any number of countries) ; or (d) a collection of 200 or more special items such as precanceled stamps, postage meters, revenue stamps, covers, postal stationery, etc.

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## STAMP

## COLLECTING

BOY SCOUTS of<br>AMERICA

## 1972

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## STinine collecinina

By Harry D. Thorsen, Jr., Stamps and Coins Editor Boys' Life magazine



Revised edition, 1974

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10. Mount and exhibit in a commercial album or an album of your own making one of the following:
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## Aids for Collectors

## Books

Collect Topicals and Have Fun, Ernest A. Kehr
Commemorative Stamps of the U.S.A., Fred Reinfeld
Identify Your Stamps, Erwin J. Felix
My Hobby Is Collecting Stamps, Ernest A. Kehr
Rare Stamps, L. N. and M. Williams

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Linn's Stamp News
P. O. Box 29, Sidney, Ohio 45365

Minkus Stamp Journal
116 West 32d St., New York, N.Y. 10001
Scott Monthly Journal
604 5th Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10020
Stamps, 153 Waverly Place, New York, N.Y. 10011
Western Stamp Collector
P.O. Box 10, Albany, Oreg. 97321

## Stamp Albums

H. E. Harris \& Co., 645 Summer St., Boston, Mass. 02210

Minkus Publications, 116 West 32d St., New York, N. Y. 10001
Scott Publishing Co., 604 5th Ave., New York, N.Y. 10020
Scouter Stamps, Inc., P.O. Box 3168, Sarasota, Fla. 33578
Washington Press, Maplewood, N.J. 07040

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## Read Boys' Life



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One of the interesting features of making a special kind of stamp collection is the opportunity to trade or swap your duplicates with your friends. No one can possibly collect for all kinds of philately, and if each of your friends decides to collect for a different subject or country than you do, you can ask them to look for items for your collection while you help collect for them. Once you have started your collection, you will be surprised at how many of your friends and your parents' friends are willing to save stamps for you.

## Scouts on Stamps

The first government-issued postage stamp to honor Scouting was put out in Czechoslovakia in 1918 at the end of World War I. The Czech Sea Scouts provided

mail service from November 7 to 25 while their new government was being organized in Prague. The wording on the stamp reads, "Czech Scout Post, In the Service of the National Government."

The first Scout pictured on a stamp appeared in 1925 when Hungary printed a set of eight sports stamps showing athletes and a Scout bugler with a background of tents.

For each of the last nine world jamborees, the host nation has issued a special stamp honoring Scouting. The first of these was in 1933 when the government of Hungary issued five stamps, all of the same design showing a leaping stag, which was on the official jamboree badge.

In 1937 the Netherlands recognized the fifth world jamboree with three different stamps, one of which showed their own Scout badge. Held in VogelensangBloemendaal, Holland, this was the last jamboree attended by Baden-Powell, Chief Scout of the world. Ten years later, after World War II was over, the sixth world jamboree was held in Moisson, France, in 1947. Its stamp design pictured the jamboree insignia of the Scout badge and the double carrick bend knot.

Bad Ischl, Austria, in 1951 was the site of the seventh world jamboree, and the host country printed a most beautiful stamp with the Scout badge and the Jew's harp, the jamboree emblem. It was processed by three methods: the green color by steel engraving, the pink by letterpress, and the yellow by photogravure. Its perfect quality has since been the admiration of printing craftsmen, and it may be the only stamp ever printed by three different methods.

The eighth world jamboree held in Niagara-on-theLake, Canada, in 1955 was the first jamboree held outside Europe. Two world globes and the Scout badge are shown on this jamboree stamp. For the ninth world jamboree in Sutton Park, England, in 1957, there were two Scout events being celebrated: first, the 50th anniversary of Scouting's start in England in 1907; and second, the 100th anniversary of the birth of BadenPowell. Up to this time Great Britain had recognized few organizations, only the Universal Postal Union and the Olympic Games, with commemorative stamps. Therefore, three stamps picturing the Queen of England with different jamboree motifs was a great honor to Scouting and our founder.

## WORLD JAMBOREE STAMPS



Hungary, 1933


Netherlands, 1937


Austria, 195I



Canada, 1955


Great Britain, 1957


Philippines, 1959


Greece, 1963


## SCOUTS ON STAMPS



Nicaragua


United States


Nationalist China

The 10th world jamboree in Makiling National Park, Philippines, in 1959 has the honor of being commemorated by the greatest variety of Scout stamps. Five stamps each with different designs and values showing different Scout activities and the jamboree badge were issued. Souvenir sheets, $31 / 2$ by $63 / 4$ inches, with the five stamps and a marginal inscription on the jamboree on them were also isued. For the 11th world jamboree in Greece in 1963 there were five stamps, also. The jamboree badge appears on one stamp while Lord BadenPowell is seen on the three drachmas stamp. Although B-P appears on the stamp of many countries, this is the

Korea


Finland


only jamboree stamp by a host nation showing the founder up to this time.

The 12th world jamboree in 1967 was held in the United States at Farragut State Park, Idaho. Here the United States printed the first jamboree postal cards. They were very popular with Scouts and leaders who were writing to home or friends. Ten million air mail cards were printed, with 620,024 being sold on the first day of issue.

Japan continued the Scout stamp tradition in 1971 when it hosted the 13th world jamboree. Its stamp showed a Scout bugler.

POSTAGE STAMPS HONORING GIRL AND BOY SCOUTS . . .


## Stories Behind Stamps

7. Prepare a page showing ingenuity in displaying one or more stamps. Use clippings, drawings, or any other means to emphasize the story behind the stamp or stamps.

Many stamps honor famous people such as statesmen, inventors, kings, queens, and leaders of various movements or services. Others may recognize the achievements of organizations like Scouting, the Red Cross, or $4-\mathrm{H}$, and still others mark holidays like Christmas. Some stamps have very interesting stories behind them. One such stamp is what might be called the first Scout stamp.

Its story begins in 1900 in South Africa. The Boer War, in which Great Britain was fighting the Boer settlers, was raging. The British held a little town called Mafeking, and the Boers laid siege to it. For 217 days the siege continued.

The British commander was Robert S. S. BadenPowell. To help in communications, Baden-Powell formed a cadet corps of boys. These boys served as


## "UNCLE DAN" BEARD HONORED ONA POSTAGE STAMP OF THE AFPICAN NATION OF TOGO


uniformed messengers, carrying messages from the commander to his outposts.

During the long siege, the officers began producing postage stamps, mostly for their own amusement. When Baden-Powell found out about it, he suggested that his messenger, Cadet Sergeant Major Goodyear, be pictured on one of the stamps. These stamps were recognized as real postage stamps when the war ended in 1902.

In 1907, Baden-Powell formed the Scouting movement. In later years, Baden-Powell called young Goodyear his first Scout, because his ideas for Scouting had been forming during the siege of Mafeking.

## The World's Most Valuable Stamp

Shown here is the world's most valuable stamp. In 1969 , it was sold at an auction for $\$ 280,000$ - and its face value was 1 cent!

This stamp was printed in 1856 in British Guiana, which is now the independent country of Guyana. When it was still a British colony, British Guiana's stamps were printed in England. This one was printed in the colony because supplies were slow in arriving from England.

## 



## STinimp collecinina

By Harry D. Thorsen, Jr.,

Founder, Scouts on Stamps Society, International


1976 Printing of the 1974 Edition

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Credits
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H. E. Harris and Company

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## BOYSCOUTS OFAMERICA

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Society of Philatelic Americans
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# STAMP COLLECTING 



##  MERIT BADGE SERIES

## STininip colllecilina

By Harry D. Thorsen, Jr.,<br>Founder, Scouts on Stamps Society, International



1979 Printing of the 1974 Edition

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Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 19-600
ISBN 0-8395-3359-4
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## ADVANCE IN SCOUTING . . . EARN MERIT BADGES. . . READ



# STAMP COLLECTING 



##  MERIT BADGE SERIES

## STAMP COLLECTING

By Harry D. Thorsen, Jr.,
Founder, Scouts on Stamps Society, International


1989 Printing of the 1974 Edition

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## BOISCOUISOF: AMBPRICA MERIT BADGE SERIES

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BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA IRVING, TEXAS


1994 Printing of the
1993 Edition

Stamps, 85 Canisteo Street, Hornell, NY 14843
U.S. Stamps \& Postal History, 10660 Barkley Lane, Shawnee-Mission, KS 66212-1861

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## BOY SCOUISSO: AMEBRCA MERIT BADGE SERIES

## STAMP COLLECTING

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA IRVING, TEXAS


Stamps, 85 Canisteo Street, Hornell, NY 14843
U.S. Stamps \& Postal History, 10660 Barkley Lane, Shawnee-Mission, KS 66212-1861

## Stamp Albums

Brookman Stamp Company, 10 Chestnut Drive, Bedford, NH 03102 H.E. Harris and Company, P.O. Box 817, Florence, AL 35631

Minkus Publications, Novus Debut, Inc., Fort Mill, SC 29715
Scott Publishing Company, P.O. Box 828, Sidney, OH 45365-0828
The Washington Press, Florham Park, NJ 07932

## Philatelic Societies

American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors, P.O. Box 432, South Orange, NJ 07079
American Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 8000, State College, PA 16803
American Topical Association, P.O. Box 630, Johnstown, PA 15907
Junior Philatelists of America, P.O. Box 850, Boalsburg, PA 168270850
Scouts on Stamps Society International, Inc. (SOSSI) P.O. Box 526, Belen, NM 87002

## Acknowledgments

The Boy Scouts of America gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the following people and organizations in the preparation of this merit badge pamphlet:

| American Philatelic Society | Brookman Stamp Company |
| :--- | :--- |
| American Stamp Dealers | Linn's Stamp News Association |
| American Topical Association | Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News |
| United States Postal Service | Scott Publishing Company |

Scouts on Stamps Society International, Inc. (SOSSI), Baden-Powell Chapter 1

Harry D. Thorsen, founder
William J.Yankus, chairman, revision committee

James Byrne, member Joseph Faloon, member Shirley Fisher, member Richard Thill, member

## Contents

Introduction ..... 5
Understanding People, Places, and History ..... 7
Types of Stamp Collecting ..... 11
Collectors' Language ..... 15
How Stamps Are Made ..... 22
Catalogs, Equipment, and Procedures ..... 25
Displaying Your Collection ..... 30
Fun Projects ..... 32
How the United States Postal System Works ..... 34
Interesting Stories About Stamps ..... 36
Resources ..... 38

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## Requirements

1. Do the following:
a. Discuss how you can better understand people, places, institutions, history, and geography as a result of collecting stamps.
b. Briefly describe some aspects of the history, growth, and development of the United States postal system. How is it different from postal systems in other countries?
2. Define topical stamp collecting. What are some other types of stamp collections?
3. Show at least ONE example of each of the following:
a. Perforated and imperforate stamps
b. Mint and used stamps
c. Sheet, booklet, and coil stamps
d. Numbers on plate block, booklet, or coil, or marginal markings
e. Overprint and surcharge
f. Metered mail
g. Definitive, commemorative, semipostal, and airmail stamps
h. Cancellation and postmark
i. First day cover
j. Postal stationery (aerogramme, stamped envelope, and postal card)
4. Do the following:
a. Demonstrate the use of ONE standard catalog for several different stamp issues. Explain why catalog value can vary from the corresponding purchase price.
b. Explain the meaning of the term condition as used to describe a stamp. Show examples that illustrate the different factors that affect a stamp's value.
5. Demonstrate the use of at least THREE of the following stamp collector's tools:
a. Stamp tongs
b. Water and tray
c. Magnifier(s)
d. Hinges
e. Perforation gauge
f. Envelopes and sleeves
g. Watermark fluid
6. Do the following:
a. Show a stamp album and how to mount stamps with or without hinges. Show at least ONE page that displays several stamps.
b. Discuss at least THREE ways you can help to preserve stamps, covers, and albums in first-class condition.
7. Do at least TWO of the following:
a. Design a stamp, cancellation, or cachet.
b. Visit a post office, stamp club, or stamp show with an experienced collector. Explain what you saw and/or did.
c. Write a review of an interesting article from a stamp newspaper, magazine, or book.
d. Research and report on a famous stamp-related personality or the history behind a particular stamp.
e. Describe the steps taken to produce a stamp. Include the methods of printing, types of paper, perforation styles, and how they are gummed.
f. Prepare a two- to three-page display involving stamps. Using ingenuity, as well as clippings, drawings, etc., tell a story about the stamps. How do they relate to history, geography, or a favorite topic of yours?
8. Mount and show, in a purchased or homemade album, ONE of the following:
a. A collection of 250 or more different stamps from at least 15 countries.
b. A collection of a stamp from each of 50 different countries, mounted on maps to show the location of each.
c. A collection of 100 or more different stamps from either one country or a group of closely related countries.
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# Read BOYS'LIFE Earn Merit Badges 



BOYS'LIFE is your magazine. Each monthly issue is packed with information on Scouting skills and activities as well as many other interesting stories and articles. BOYS'LIFE will help you along your "trail to Eagle."

## Check BOYS' LIFE

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If you don't already subscribe to
BOYS'LIFE, your Scoutmaster can help you subscribe at half the regular price.


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a local post office, affix the stamp to an envelope addressed to yourself (or someone else you designate), and send it in a larger envelope to the USPS. (The address appears at the bottom of each stamp release; check with your local post office.) Individual first day covers can be ordered by writing to the USPS, Philatelic Sales Division, First Day Covers, P.O. Box 219424, Kansas City, MO 64121-9424; or call toll-free 800-STAMP-24; or visit the USPS Web site at http://shopusps.com.

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United States Postal Service, in particular Mark Saunders (senior community relations specialist), Cindy L. Tackett (manager, Stamp Products and Exhibitions), and with special thanks to Courtney Loy (Rights and Permissions Program); Janet Houser, program coordinator, American Philatelic Society; Wilson Hulme, curator of philately, and Allison Gallaway, public affairs officer, the Smithsonian Institution's National Postal Museum; artist John Dawson; and Scott S. Stuckey, senior editor, National Geographic Traveler magazine, and former editor of Boys' Life.

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We appreciate the Quicklist Consulting Committee of the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association, for its assistance with updating the resources section of this merit badge pamphlet.

## Photo and Illustration Credits

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## LET THE ADVENTURE BEGIN...



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## STAMP <br> COLLECTING




RWANDAISE



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c. Sheet, booklet, and coil stamps
d. Numbers on plate block, booklet, or coil, or marginal markings
e. Overprint and surcharge
f. Metered mail
g. Definitive, commemorative, semipostal, and airmail stamps
h. Cancellation and postmark

i. First day cover
j. Postal stationery (aerogramme, stamped envelope, and postal card)
4. Do the following:
a. Demonstrate the use of ONE standard catalog for several different stamp issues. Explain why catalog value can vary from the corresponding purchase price.
b. Explain the meaning of the term condition as used to describe a stamp. Show examples that illustrate the different factors that affect a stamp's value.
5. Demonstrate the use of at least THREE of the following stamp collector's tools:
a. Stamp tongs
b. Water and tray
c. Magnifiers
d. Hinges and stamp mounts
e. Perforation gauge
f. Glassine envelopes and cover sleeves
g. Watermark fluid
6. Do the following:
a. Show a stamp album and how to mount stamps with or without hinges. Show at least ONE page that displays several stamps.
b. Discuss at least THREE ways you can help to preserve stamps, covers, and albums in first-class condition.
7. Do at least TWO of the following:
a. Design a stamp, cancellation, or cachet.
b. Visit a post office, stamp club, or stamp show with an experienced collector. Explain what you saw and learned.
c. Write a review of an interesting article from a stamp newspaper, magazine, book, or website (with your parent's permission).
d. Research and report on a famous stamp-related personality or the history behind a particular stamp.
e. Describe the steps taken to produce a stamp. Include the methods of printing, types of paper, perforation styles, and how they are gummed.
f. Prepare a two- to three-page display involving stamps. Using ingenuity, as well as clippings, drawings, etc., tell a story about the stamps and how they relate to history, geography, or a favorite topic of yours.
8. Mount and show, in a purchased or homemade album, ONE of the following:
a. A collection of 250 or more different stamps from at least 15 countries.
b. A collection of a stamp from each of 50 different countries, mounted on maps to show the location of each.
c. A collection of 100 or more different stamps from either one country or a group of closely related countries.
d. A collection of 75 or more different stamps on a single topic. (Some interesting topics are Scouting, birds, insects, the Olympics, sports, flowers, animals, ships, holidays, trains, famous people, space, and medicine.) Stamps may be from different countries.
e. A collection of postal items discovered in your mail by monitoring it over a period of 30 days. Include at least five different types listed in requirement 3 .



## MERIT BADGE SERIES



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA


RWANDAISE


Be MilGFAR JOSSVA:



35955
ISBN 978-0-8395-3296-5
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## Requirements

1. Do the following:
a. Discuss how you can better understand people, places, institutions, history, and geography as a result of collecting stamps.
b. Briefly describe some aspects of the history, growth, and development of the United States postal system. Tell how it is different from postal systems in other countries.
2. Define topical stamp collecting. Name and describe three other types of stamp collections.
3. Show at least ONE example of each of the following:
a. Perforated and imperforate stamps
b. Mint and used stamps
c. Sheet, booklet, and coil stamps
d. Numbers on plate block, booklet, or coil, or marginal markings
e. Overprint and surcharge
f. Metered mail
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i. First day cover
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4. Do the following:
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## 2011

## Stamp Honor's Scouting's Centennial

In celebration of the Boy Scouts of America's 100th Anniversary, the U.S. Postal Service issued a "Celebrate Scouting" stamp in 2010. The stamp, which portrays the outdoor adventure aspect of Scouting, was designed by illustrator Craig Frazier. The depiction of a Scout atop the summit of a mountain, with the silhouette of a Scout viewing the distance through binoculars, conveys a nostalgic sentiment for Scouting's century-long history in the United States.



## MERIT BADGE SERIES



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35955
ISBN 978-0-8395-3296-5
(c) 2013 Boy Scouts of America 2013 Printing



## Requirements

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a. Show a stamp album and how to mount stamps with or without hinges. Show at least ONE page that displays several stamps.
b. Discuss at least THREE ways you can help to preserve stamps, covers, and albums in first-class condition.
7. Do at least TWO of the following:
a. Design a stamp, cancellation, or cachet.
b. Visit a post office, stamp club, or stamp show with an experienced collector. Explain what you saw and learned.
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[^0]:    Copyright 1993
    Boy Scouts of America
    Irving, Texas
    ISBN 0-8395-3296-2
    No. 33296 Printed in U.S.A. $\quad 4.5 \mathrm{M} 796$

